

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 3-9 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 3-9 and 12-18 as being allowable over the art of record.

OBJECTION

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 4 and 5 as being substantial duplicate of claims 12, 13 and 14. Although Applicants disagree that these are substantial duplicates, in order to further the prosecution, Applicants are canceling claims 12-14. Claims 15 to 18 are also being cancelled since they also correspond to dependent claims 6-9.

CONCLUSION

Since all of the objections of the Examiner have been removed and only allowable claims remain, Applicants submit that the application is in allowable form. In view of this, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Office Action dated: October 14, 2004
Reply filed: November 29, 2004

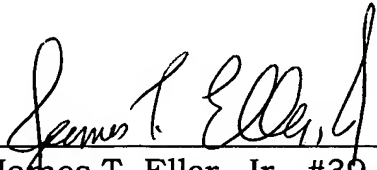
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Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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3449-0182P

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